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(Please do not publish phone numbers. Thank you.)

Governor Mapp Meets with Department of the Interior for Insular Affairs Officials

(St. Thomas, US Virgin Islands, February 2, 2015) Today, Governor Mapp welcomed to Government House in St Thomas the Honorable Esther P. Kia'aina, Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Insular Affairs and Nikolao I. Pula, Jr., Director of Insular Affairs, Department of the Interior. Governor Mapp touched on many subjects including infrastructure budget assistance and educational funding to rebuild our schools.

Meetings will continue this week, as Ms. Kia'aina and Mr. Pula will travel to St. John and St Croix. They will meet with the President of the 31st Legislature, Senator Neville James, the Delegate to Congress Stacey Plaskett and the National Parks Superintendent, Joel Tutien among many others as they travel throughout the Territory.

The Department of the Interior is responsible for coordinating federal policy with respect to the U.S. Virgin Islands and administering and overseeing U.S. federal assistance. The Office of Insular Affairs' mission is to foster economic opportunities, promote government efficiency, and improve the quality of life for the people of the insular areas.

Governor Mapp was pleased with the discussion stating "My meeting with Honorable Esther P. Kia'aina, Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Insular Affairs and Nikolao I. Pula, Jr., Director of Insular Affairs, Department, the Lieutenant Governor Osbert Potter, and senior staff went very well. We discussed the Federal Government's willingness to provide technical and financial assistance and about how to better utilize and extend the use federal funds. Discussion turned to CMS and the Governor Juan F Luis Hospital and our need for \$11 million in capital improvements at the hospital. We talked about our strategies with the Delegate to Congress for the largest share of Highway Transportation funds for road construction in the territory. We discussed the ABC School program analysis performed by the Army Corps of Engineers, evaluating the physical defects in our schools and the need for four new schools, the demolition and reconstruction of those schools. Our meeting then turned to Homeland Security and gaining federal assistance for the human trafficking and gun crimes that are becoming more prevalent



throughout the Territory. We also suggested a collaboration of our local Bureau of Corrections and the Federal Bureau of Prisons for technical training and management support. This was a robust and excellent meeting. I have agreed to meet with the Assistant Secretary and the Director again in three weeks when I am in Washington, to continue our discussion”

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